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REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS

The Macmillan Company have recently added several new biographies to their admirable Miniature Series of Painters—"Holman Hunt," by George C. Williamson; "Alma-Tadema," by Helen Zimmern; "Greuze," by Harold Armitage; "Burne-Jones," by Malcolm Bell; "Millais," by A. L. Baldry; "Murillo," by George C. Williamson; "Correggio," by Leader Scott; "Lord Leighton," by George C. Williamson. This series of monographs has the advantage of being convenient in form and attractive in style and of being written by people competent not merely to supply a few biographical data, but to give in succinct form adequate and just appreciations of the artists and their work.

The volumes are all modeled on a uniform plan, each giving a brief biographical sketch of the painter considered, an estimate of his art, an account of his chief works with their present location, a bibliography of works of reference, and a well-selected list of illustrations calculated to give the reader an idea of the favorite subjects and peculiar characteristics of the painters considered. In many cases these brochures are condensations of larger works, from which the least essential portions have been omitted. They are not designed for exhaustive study, but to give to the public in compact form such facts and critical opinions as may suffice for those who wish only a general knowledge and may stimulate in others a desire for more extended research. The booklets, therefore, supply a distinct want, and are to be commended for the purpose for which they are designed. * "Photograms of the Year 1902," published in this country by Tennant & Ward, comes in its well-known, substantial, and simple dress—a pictorial and literary record of the artistic photographic work of the year. The volume comprises a series of essays by well-known writers on photographic subjects, giving a critical record of pictorial photographic work in France, the United States, New Zealand, England, Germany, and Australia, together with reviews of salons and discussions of various subjects of interest to amateur and professional photographers. Text and illustrations alike have a positive value to those interested in photographic work. The latter are especially numerous and interesting, and it is to be regretted that the quality of paper used in the volume does not permit of the best results being obtained from the half-tone plates of the photographs reproduced.

The editors of the book, acting on the principle that in art there is nothing so fatal as dogma and no state so healthy as robust free-thinking, give free latitude to the writers and disclaim indorsement

of all they print. Each writer, whether in signed or unsigned articles, expresses his own opinion freely, and the editor's only care is to be satisfied that each critic is honest. The value of the book is further enhanced by copious indexes of subjects and authors.

✱ In "The Ward of King Canute," recently published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Miss Ottilie A. Liljencrantz has offered the public an interesting successor to her initial romance of last year, "The Thrall of Leif the Lucky." The charm of this new work, as of the old, does not inhere so much in any rare ability of the author as a story-teller as in the fact that the romance takes the reader out of the cut-and-dried beat of ordinary fiction into a realm familiar enough to students of the Northland, but comparatively unknown to the general public. It is a simple story simply told. The life, the spirit, the incidents depicted are foreign to those of to-day, and as such they have a peculiar fascination of their own. The list cited of twenty odd voluminous historical works from which the author claims to have borrowed her facts is a touch of pedantry which might have been spared the reader.

One of the features of the book—and it is one that has rarely been equaled in a work of fiction—is the series of six magnificent color-plates by the Kinneys with which the pages are illuminated. These pictures are altogether exceptional, as is evidenced by the colored insert in this issue of BRUSH AND PENCIL. The artists have caught the true spirit of viking days, and their work implies careful study of as long a list of authorities as that which the author supplies for her part of the performance. In conception, composition, and coloring these six plates are worthy to rank among the most noteworthy examples of modern book illustrations.

✱ It is an old saw that one-half the world does not know how the other half lives. One might say with equal truth, that the one half would not know how to live as the other half does if it should undertake to do so. Mary E. Carter, in "Millionaire Households," published by D. Appleton & Co., essays to tell the less favored of fortune how to live like the possessors of millions. In other words, the tastefully gotten up volume is a work on "fine living." The author devotes successive chapters to the hostess and her wardrobe; to the superintending housekeeper and her duties; to the lady's maid, the housemaid, the parlor maid, and the servants' dining-hall maid; to the laundry, the linen-room, and the cedar-room; to the butler, the chef, and the useful man of no specific duties. Incidentally she throws side-lights on the "smart set" when they dine, and furnishes miscellaneous recipes for the "smart set's" table. The volume is pleasant, and for those who wish to do the proper thing in the proper way—that is, according to the standard of the Four Hundred—profitable reading.

✱ Bates & Guild, in "Letters and Lettering," by Frank Chouteau

Brown, have issued a treatise which is of special value to the student of alphabets of standard forms. Primarily the work is designed for the use of specialists, and its pages are largely devoted to copious illustrations of different kinds of letters. The author has included over two hundred illustrative examples, and has purposely minimized his discussion of the evolution of the letter forms, his theory being that the examples given would tell their own story better than letterpress discussion. He, however, appends a brief chapter for the benefit of the beginner, in which he discusses the best tools with which to work and the best methods to pursue in order to obtain satisfactory results in the matter of lettering. The work fills a unique niche of its own.

✱ Students of architecture and art have long felt the need of a succinct work on composition suited to their requirements. John Vredenburg Van Pelt's "A Discussion of Composition," published by the Macmillan Company, is an eminently satisfactory manual. The book gives the substance of a course of lectures delivered at Cornell University between 1897 and 1900, and is divided into six parts. The first treats of the general laws of character in art; the second, general technical laws; and the last four have to do with applications, three and five being, respectively, theoretical discussions of decoration and plan, and four and six containing practical suggestions on the same subjects. The author disclaims originality, since, as he says, composition is the practice of art, and art is as old as humanity. The work is specifically for the student, and the principles enunciated have the double value of being sound and clearly stated.



BOOKS RECEIVED

"Botticelli," by A. Streeter. The Macmillan Co. \$1.75.

"The Reflections of a Lonely Man," by A. C. M. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.

"The Ward of King Canute," by Otilie A. Liljencrantz. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.50.

"Cartoons," by John T. McCutcheon. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.40.